

**From:** [Chancellor Gene D. Block](#)  
**To:** [Kent Smith](#)  
**Subject:** A Summer Update from UCLA  
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## Office of the Chancellor

UCLA seal



Dear Friend of UCLA,

I hope this note finds you enjoying the slower pace of summer with your family and friends. With most of our students away, UCLA's campus seems quieter at this time of year. But regardless of the season, research, discovery and education continue unabated here, and I am proud to share a few recent notable events and accomplishments with you.

Just last week, UCLA Health's hospitals in Westwood and Santa Monica were [ranked No. 3 nationally](#) in U.S. News & World Report's prestigious Best Hospitals Honor Roll, extending our hospitals' standing as best in the West to 26 straight years. UCLA also was highly rated nationally in 15 specialties, including cancer at the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center (No. 6), geriatrics (No. 2) and ophthalmology at the Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute (No. 5).

Excellence is also abundantly evident in our top-flight faculty. Not only do they exert a profoundly positive influence on the lives of our students, but their superb scholarship and collaboration also help drive important research and discoveries that are recognized and lauded by their peers. One such faculty member, world-renowned

mathematics professor Terence Tao, was the subject of a fascinating profile in the [July 26 New York Times Magazine](#), which noted that “many regard Tao as the finest mathematician of his generation.”

This excellence has inspired many of you and thousands of others to support [the Centennial Campaign for UCLA](#), which [raised a record \\$643 million](#) in gifts and pledges during the recently closed fiscal year. The total surpassed UCLA’s previous high of \$557 million in 2013–14, when the Centennial Campaign was launched. The largest gift was a \$100 million donation from Marion Anderson, which established an endowment to support UCLA Anderson School of Management priorities, such as student financial aid and fellowships, and will help fund a new building. In numbers that continue to grow, UCLA alumni and friends are sharing and supporting the vision for UCLA’s future, with 60,524 donors making 77,818 gifts this year. The campaign is well on its way to meeting an ambitious goal of raising \$4.2 billion by UCLA’s 100th anniversary in 2019.

Finally, this week our campus is hosting thousands of athletes and coaches from around the world who are participating in the [Special Olympics World Games](#). UCLA is the site of eight sporting events, including volleyball, soccer, softball and judo. The joy of this international event is felt throughout our campus, and it is reflected in the faces of the athletes and the nearly 1,000 UCLA faculty, students and staff who are serving as volunteers.

The above is but a brief snapshot of what’s happening here this summer. I look forward to sharing more news from UCLA with you as we move into and through the new academic year.

Again, thank you for all you do to support and strengthen UCLA. Your generosity translates into real achievements that have an impact both here in Los Angeles and across the globe.

Sincerely,

**Gene D. Block**

Chancellor

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